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United States Department of Agriculture,  
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY,  
Dairy Division.

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**BETTER BARNs FOR DAIRYMEN.**

Every year shows greater interest on the part of the general public in the production of clean milk. It is the focal point of most dairy legislation and is the most essential item in dairy manufactures. City boards of health, dairy and food inspectors, and State dairy and food commissioners are active in the work of improvement of the sanitary conditions surrounding the production of milk. Reports from these various officers show that one of the greatest obstacles in the way of securing improvement is the barns in which the herds are kept. Too often these barns are found to be damp, dark, and poorly ventilated; the floors are a source of everlasting odors; the lack of sunlight promotes decomposition, and every particle of dust is loaded with germs which readily find their way into the milk. The foul odors present are absorbed by the milk before it can be removed from the premises. The cows are more susceptible to disease, and the place is entirely unfit for housing animals. There seems to be some excuse for this condition of things, as many, if not most, of these barns were built before the necessity of light and ventilation, good drainage, and sanitary arrangements for the interior were as well known as they are to-day. Most dairy-men realize this fact and would make improvements, which are not necessarily expensive, if they knew how to go about it.

The Dairy Division receives many inquiries regarding the construction of new dairy barns, as there seems to be a lack of available information on this matter that is reliable and practical. It is proposed to make working plans and to give specifications for material and manner of construction, and to make the work especially applicable to the dairyman who can not afford an expensive structure and the services of an architect, and to place these in the hands of those who may desire them as soon as it can be done properly.

Many excellent barns have been built in different parts of the country; it is desirable to make a study of these, and, in order to do so without unnecessary expenditure of money for travel, the Dairy Division desires that those who have built barns having especially good features in general arrangement of floors or in details of stalls, handy devices, etc., would write to the Dairy Division of this Bureau of their success, giving details as much as possible. Some of the best barns will be visited with a view to securing more complete details than can be given in a letter.

It is also desired that those who contemplate building new dairy barns or intend to rebuild their old barns with a view to making them modern and sanitary, will write to the Dairy Division and explain the details of size, cost, drainage, and slope of land, and exposure, purpose of barn, etc. It is not expected that the Division can furnish every applicant with a full set of drawings and specifications, but all such correspondence will be given careful attention and suggestions offered.

From this study of the needs of builders and from the successful work already done, it is expected to work out eventually a system of plans and specifications covering the general differences of climate, location, material, and cost that can be readily adapted to the needs of the greater number of dairymen.

Correspondence and suggestions bearing on this subject will be welcomed at the office of the Dairy Division, Washington, D. C.

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